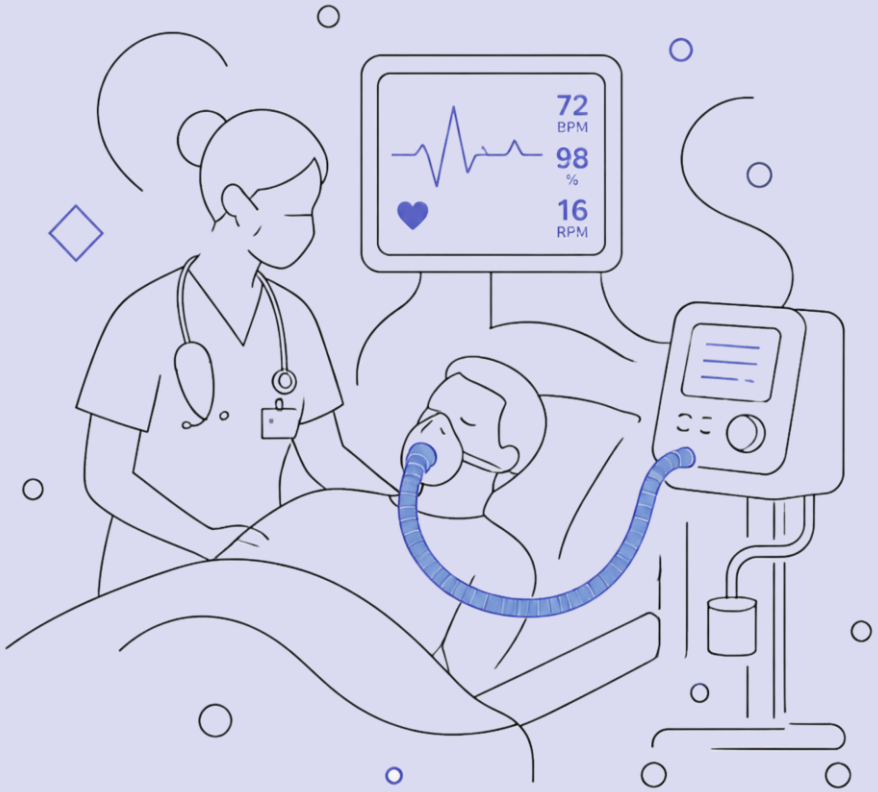
PRACTICE TEST MASTER

CCRN Adult Exam

Complete Exam Guide & Preparation Strategy - everything you need to master adult critical-care certification with confidence.



WHAT IS THE CCRN?

The Gold Standard in Critical-Care Nursing Certification

The **CCRN (Critical Care Registered Nurse)** credential, issued by the **AACN Certification Corporation**, validates expertise in adult critical-care nursing.

Purpose

Recognize advanced clinical knowledge and sound judgment in critical care.

Who Takes It

RNs with direct bedside care of acutely/critically ill adult patients.

Why It Matters

Demonstrates commitment to excellence and evidence-based practice.

EXAM OVERVIEW

CCRN Adult Exam at a Glance

150

Questions

125 scored + 25 pretest

3 hrs

Testing Time

Computer-based at Pearson VUE

500

Practice Hours

Required in last 2 years

80%

Passing Score

Scaled score required

Format

Multiple-choice, scenario-based

Eligibility

Active RN license + 1,750 practice hours (875 in last year)

Organization

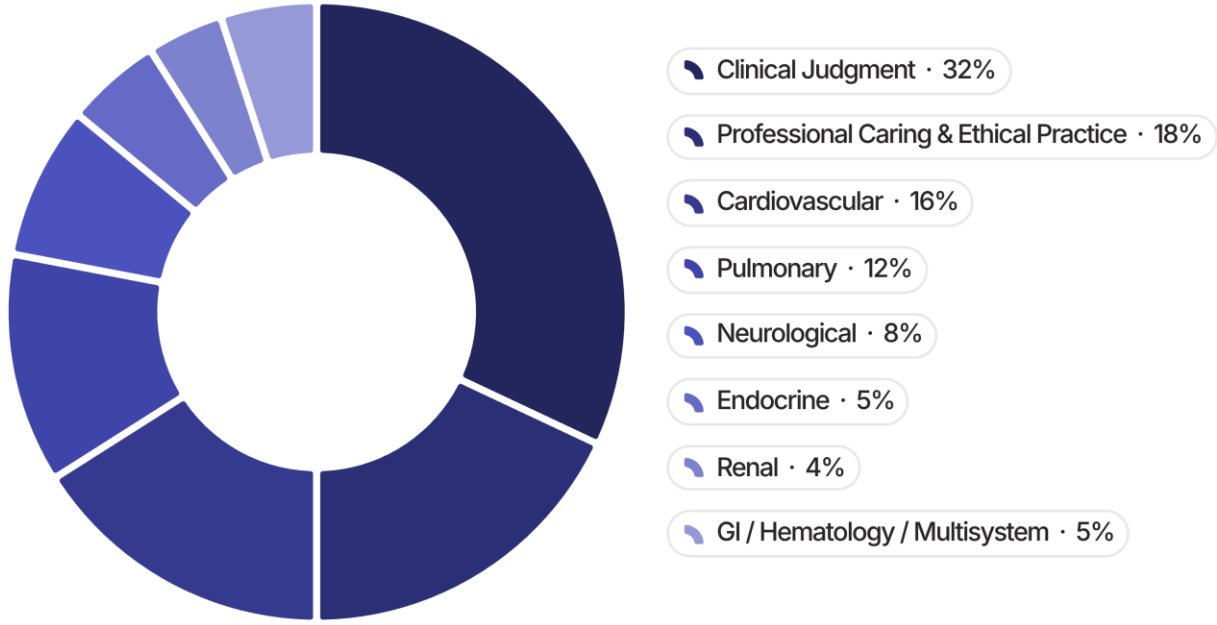
AACN Certification Corporation

EXAM BLUEPRINT

CCRN Adult Exam Content Distribution

The exam blueprint defines the weight of each domain. **Clinical Judgment** is the highest-yield area, accounting for nearly one-third of scored questions. Use this breakdown to guide your study priorities.

Source: AACN / AACN Certification Corporation, current CCRN Adult Exam Handbook and Test Plan.


Clinical Judgment · 32%
Professional Caring & Ethical Practice · 18%
Cardiovascular · 16%
Pulmonary · 12%
Neurological · 8%
Endocrine · 5%
Renal · 4%
GI / Hematology / Multisystem · 5%

CLINICAL DOMAINS

High-Yield Clinical Areas

Master these body systems and their critical-care presentations. Each domain is tested through complex patient scenarios requiring clinical judgment.

Cardiovascular

ACS, heart failure, hemodynamics, dysrhythmias

Pulmonary

ARDS, mechanical ventilation, ABG analysis

Neurological

ICP monitoring, stroke, seizures, GCS

Renal & Endocrine

AKI, CRRT, DKA, adrenal crisis

Hematology / GI

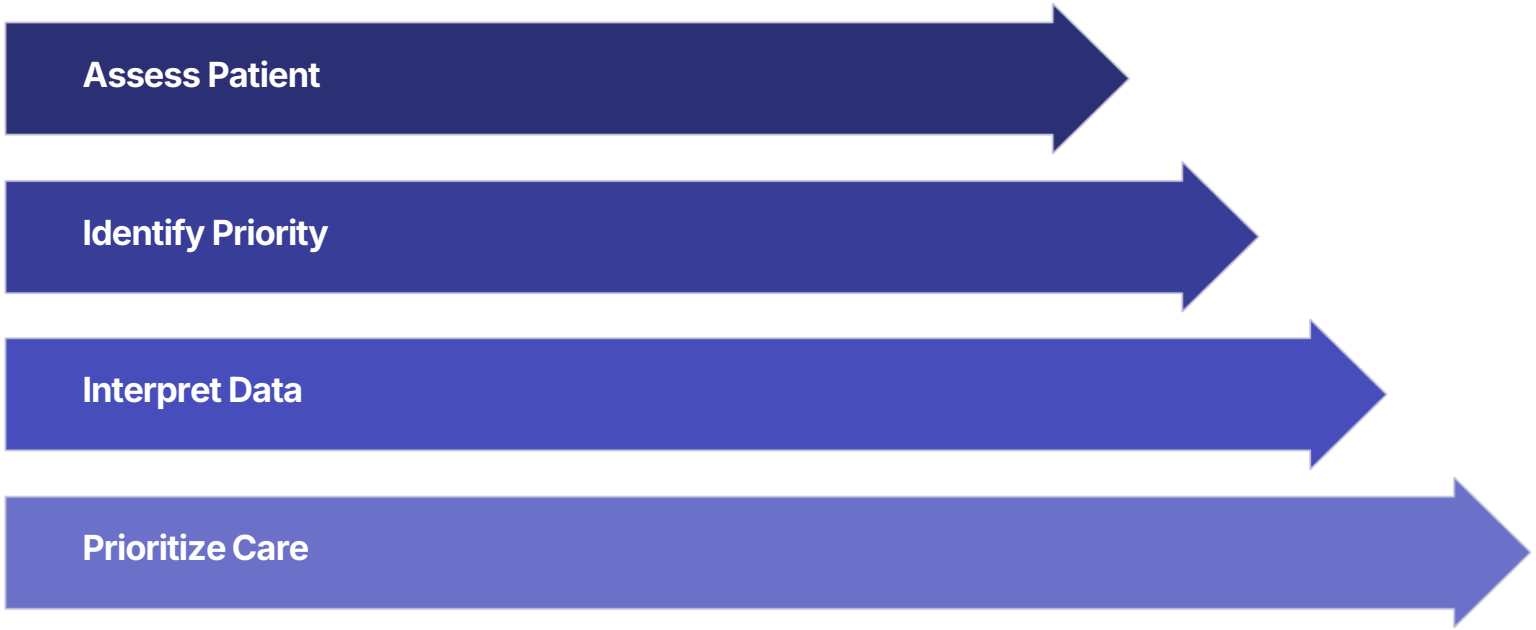
Coagulopathy, GI bleeding, sepsis

Multisystem

MODS, shock, toxicology, burns

QUESTION STRATEGY

Clinical Judgment & How to Answer CCRN Questions



Apply this framework to every question. Eliminate distractors, prioritize safety, and always reassess.

Practice Scenario: A patient with septic shock has BP 82/50 mmHg after 2L fluids. What is the priority?
A) Start norepinephrine infusion ✓
B) Administer IV furosemide
C) Place in Trendelenburg position
D) Obtain a stat chest X-ray
Rationale: Vasopressors are indicated when hypotension persists after adequate fluid resuscitation in septic shock.

STUDY PLAN

Your CCRN Study Roadmap

A structured approach builds confidence and targets weak areas systematically.

01

Review the Official Blueprint

Map all domains and question weights.

02

Identify Weak Domains

Take a diagnostic practice test to find gaps.

03

Study Clinical Concepts

Focus on pathophysiology, pharmacology, and interventions.

04

Practice Clinical-Judgment Questions

Use timed, scenario-based questions daily.

05

Analyze Incorrect Answers

Understand why wrong answers are wrong.

06

Timed Practice Tests

Simulate full exam conditions weekly.

07

Review High-Yield Weak Areas

Revisit lowest-scoring domains.

08

Final Exam-Readiness Check

Confirm readiness across all domains.

Practice Questions + Clinical Reasoning + Review = Better Preparation

FINAL CHECKLIST

CCRN Exam-Day Readiness

- Review the current CCRN Adult Exam blueprint
- Study every major clinical domain
- Practice clinical-judgment questions daily
- Review pharmacology and critical-care interventions
- Practice prioritization and patient assessment
- Analyze practice-test mistakes thoroughly
- Complete full timed practice sessions
- Prepare for exam day logistics

Prepare Smarter.
Practice With Purpose.

PracticeTestMaster provides CCRN Adult Exam preparation resources designed for critical-care nurses who are serious about passing.

PracticeTestMaster is an independent exam-preparation resource and is not affiliated with or endorsed by AACN or AACN Certification Corporation.